

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 585

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Reviews

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 1. the date they were ordered
 2. the date they commenced
 3. the minister responsible
 4. the department responsible
 5. the nature of the review
 6. their terms of reference
 7. the scope of the review
 8. Who is conducting the review
 9. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 10. the expected report date
 11. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 12. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 1. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 2. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 3. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 4. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 5. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 6. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 7. If yes, for each, who selected them
 8. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 1. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 2. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 3. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 4. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 5. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

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3. Which reviews are on-going?
 1. Please list them.
 2. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
4. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
 1. When will each planned review be commenced?
 2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 3. When will government respond to each review?
 4. Will the government release each review?

If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. As at 1 December 2014, the ABC had commissioned two reviews since Budget Estimates.

	ABC Projects 2014	Editorial review 4
1.	The review was ordered in July 2014.	The review was commissioned in August 2014 but did not commence until November 2014.
2.	See above at 1.	See above at 1.
3.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
4.	The review was commissioned by the ABC.	The review was commissioned by the ABC.
5.	This was essentially an extension of the support services review commissioned by the ABC in the first half of 2014. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) explored the quantum of savings within the support functions across the entire organisation. In this phase of the work PwC assisted in developing possible options for change in the context of reduced funding and the changing media environment.	The subject of the review was the coverage of the 2014 Federal Budget. The programs under review went to air on ABC television on the night of the Budget itself and for the remainder of the following week. The review was further confined to current affairs and specialist business programming (7.30 -- in all states, Lateline, The Business and The Drum) and all content was the responsibility of the News Division.
6.	See above at 5.	See above at 5.
7.	See above at 5.	See above at 5.
8.	PwC	Colleen Ryan
9.	PwC actively engaged with ABC staff across the Corporation. PwC worked most intensively with officers in the Strategy and Planning Division.	None.

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10.	October 2014.	February 2015
11.	The contracted fee was \$1,295,000 (ex GST).	The contracted fee was \$30,000 (inclusive of GST).
12.	No.	Yes.

2. As at 1 December 2014, the ABC had commissioned the following reviews using an external party since Budget Estimates.

	ABC Projects 2014	Editorial review 4
1	See above at 1(8).	See above at 1(8).
2	Luke Sayers is the CEO of PwC Australia and the Vice Chairman of PwC Asia.	Colleen Ryan is an independent consultant.
3	See above at 1(11).	See above at 1(11).
4	PwC conducted the work on behalf of the ABC.	Colleen Ryan is conducting the work on behalf of the ABC.
5	No.	No.
6	None.	None.
7	The ABC issued a Request for Quotation to two firms, from which PwC were selected as the successful service provider.	Colleen Ryan was selected because of her experience as a business journalist former Editor of the Financial Review.
8	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

3.

a) As at 1 December 2014 no reviews were ongoing.

b) See above at 3a.

4. The PwC contract on ABC Projects 2014 ceased in October 2014.

5. Editorial review 4 will conclude in February 2015.

6. Nil.

7. Not applicable.

8. The ABC regularly reviews its operational requirements as part of its annual budget allocation process, with a mind to operating efficiently.